

Fireside Talks

With Members of the Newspaper Bible Class

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Oak Park, Ill.



SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON FOR NOVEMBER 9, 1919: "PETER'S GREAT CONFESSION."

Golden Text: "Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." Matthew 16:16.

Lesson Matthew 16:13-24.

I. "Confessions of Great Men." Peter is remembered for his great confession regarding Jesus in which he said: "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." It was a new and sudden conviction in Peter's experience. It was the product of his long association with Jesus, his observation of His life and work and his thought upon Christ's teaching. No man ever stays steadily with Christ without being profoundly influenced by His life. The longer he stays with him and examines his career and teaching, the more he is impressed with His divinity.

When General Lew Wallace had reached mature life he was noted for his indifference to religious matters. He had never even read the Bible, and he resolved to read it in earnest that he might find out its truth or falsity for himself. The result of his reading was "Ben Hur." "I was in quest of knowledge," he tells us, "but I had no faith to sustain, no creed to bolster up. The result was that the whole field of religious and Biblical history opened up before me; and my vision not being clouded by previously formed opinions, I was enabled to survey it without the aid of lenses. I know I was thorough and persistent. I know I was conscientious in my search for the truth. I weighed, I analyzed, I counted and compared. The evolution from conjecture into knowledge, through opinion and belief, was gradual but irresistible; and at length I stood firmly and defiantly on the solid rock. Whether 'Ben Hur' has ever influenced the mind of a single reader or not, I am sure its conception and preparation have convinced its author of the divinity of the lowly Nazarene who walked and talked with God."

It is interesting to know that General Wallace was led to this investigation of Christ from every standpoint because of a confession which he had from Robert Ingersoll, the great infidel who challenged the right of Christ to receive the attention and loyalty of men.

The Westminster Bible Record tells us that missionaries today are rejoicing over the confessions of native Christians, although they are seldom as complete as that of Peter, and often the words are few and halting.

In the villages of India there are many aged men and women who gladly walk ten miles, through floods and along unsafe roads, to the house of God, and who, in their simple way, by their zeal and devotion to Christ, are proclaiming their faith in him. One old man, quivering with emotion and incoherence, made many attempts to express his belief, and finally stammered out: "We are all sinners, and the Lord Christ undertook for us all, and if we believe in him we shall be saved. I know that, and that is all I know."

Pastor Hsi, of China, first an



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AGRICULTURAL REVIEW

FARMERS DOMINATE ONTARIO LEGISLATURE — POLITICAL UPHEAVAL IN CANADIAN PROVINCE HAS MORE THAN LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE.

(Business Feature Service.)

A new political movement has developed in the Canadian province of Ontario. At a recent election the United Farmers' organization returned 57 active farmers to the legislature out of a total membership of 111, against a former representation of 17. A farmer's administration is not unlikely. Of the 57 only 13 were elected on old party tickets, so strong has been the feeling that agriculture has not been receiving a fair share in the government.

"It was truly a people's movement," writes F. M. Chapman, editor of the Farmers' Magazine to the Financial Post of Toronto. "The urban centers swung off from their accustomed moorings and labor is joining hands with the farmer. The movement is one that will commend itself to many lovers of sound government and the stability of capital and property. The farmer is essentially a believer in property rights. His views are capitalistic rather than socialistic. The elected members are of the rugged honest type."

The U. F. O. of Ontario favors public ownership of certain public utilities under efficient and economic control such as will stabilize investments and encourage and protect legitimate private enterprise. The party condemns granting class advantage. The members-elect believe they have the ability and broad-mindedness to form a cabinet and to give all interests of the province due attention. No body of electors could be more disinterested, they maintain, in answer to the criticism of class control; none could be freer from unfair discrimination or handle affairs with more intelligence.

The Canadian farmers' movement gains added significance from the overtures made by labor to the farmers in this country. Whether labor ultimately seeks a dual political control, or merely wishes to enlist support for collective bargaining and the "inalienable right" to strike, perhaps

even the labor leaders themselves could not say. Certainly the farmer and the laboring man have no real affinity except as pursuing vocations that require manual labor. Their viewpoints are essentially different. Between the farm and factory hands there is, of course, a direct community of interest.

The farmers' resentment toward speculation and price manipulation on the grain exchanges has boded high during the recent sensational decline in corn. But it should be remembered there are bulls as well as bears. Just as the latter depress prices artificially the former unduly elevate them. In general the exchange performs a service by providing an open market for grain, subject to world-wide influences of production and consumption, which finally determine all prices, and by protecting the farmer against arbitrary price fixing by country elevators.

Contrary to precedent and reversing conditions hitherto prevailing, hog prices in Dominion yards have quoted at a premium of as much as 6c a pound over American hogs, which they usually follow. Receipts have been unusually light and competitive buying held prices firm. The Canadian farmer has not crowded the market.

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